

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05146 041527Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00

SSM-03 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SCCT-01 ARA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 SCA-01

SCS-03 OPR-02 SY-05 OMB-01 A-01 ACDA-07 /117 W

----- 001746

O R 041448Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8978

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUG. 4 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTS RETURN OF PLO DELEGATION
TO DAMASCUS; CRITICISM OF SINAI ACCORD CONTINUES

1. SUMMARY: PLO DELEGATION LED BY QADDUMI RETURNED
TO DAMASCUS EVENING AUG. 3 TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF
DAMASCUS ACCORD. CHRISTIAN DELEGATION INCLUDING PAKRADOUNI
AND DANNY CHAMOUN HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN IN DAMASCUS FOR
LAST THREE DAYS. MEDIA PRAISE EVACUATION OF TELL ZAATAR
WOUNDED. CUBAN EMBOFF DENIED RUMORS OF CUBAN MILITARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05146 041527Z

PRESENCE IN LEBANON. EDITORIAL CRITIZED ISRAEL'S OPEN

BORDERS POLICY ALONG ITS NORTHERN BORDER, AND PROCLAIMED NEED TO RESTORE ORDER TO SOUTH LEBANON. THIS COULD BE PRELUDE TO RENEWED SYRO-LEBANESE MILITARY EFFORT TO PACIFY REGION. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED ARRIVAL OF PLO DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS EVENING AUG. LED BY QADDUMI AND ABD RABBU. ACCORDING TO SANA, TALKS WITH KHADDAM BEGAN THIS MORNING. TISHRIIN NOTED THAT QADDUMI STATED IN BEIRUT TALKS WOULD CENTER ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING DAMASCUS ACCORD AND FORMATION OF QUADRIPARTITE SECURITY COMMITTEE. FORMATION OF COMMITTEE AND SETTING DATE FOR ITS MEETING CONSIDERED BY QADDUMI FIRST STEP TOWARD IMPLEMENTING ACCORD. QADDUMI ALSO SPOKE OF NEED FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY IN REGION.

3. WESTERN EMBOFF TOLD US OF HIS CONVERSATION PREVIOUS NIGHT WITH LEBANESE JOURNALIST HARES CHEHAB AND COL. JEAN NASSIF. THEY TOLD HIM CHRISTIAN DELEGATION HAS BEEN IN DAMASCUS PAST THREE DAYS FOR TALKS WITH ASAD. DELEGATION ALLEGEDLY INCLUDES PAKRADOUNI AND DANNY CHAMOUN. DELEGATION'S PRESENCE IN DAMASCUS HAS NOT YET BEEN MENTIONED BY MEDIA.

4. MEDIA STRESSED SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION OF WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR, GLOWINGLY DESCRIBED AS "RESULT OF ACCORD REACHED LAST THURSDAY AND EFFORTS EXERTED BY SYRIA TO COMPLETE EVAUCATION ASAP." DR. AL-KHOULI REPORTEDLY MET WITH FRANGIE TO DISCUSS HIS CONTACTS WITH OTHER FACTIONS TOWARD ESTABLISHING CEASEFIRE. PRESS OBSERVED THAT RELATIVE CALMNESS PREVAILED IN BEIRUT AND SUBURBS BUT SOME AREAS WITNESSED FIERCE BATTLES, PARTICULARLY BEIRUT COMMERCIAL CENTER, UPPER METN AND ALEY-KAHHALE. SPEAKER KAMAL AL-AS'AD EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF REACHING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WHILE AMIN GEMAYEL CHARGED JUMBLATT WITH AGGRAVATING SITUATION AND VOICE OPPOSITION TO MEETING WITH DRUZE LEADER, ACCORDING TO PRESS.

5. PRESS CLAIMED THAT ARAB POLITICAL CIRCLES CONTINUED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 05146 041527Z

TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR DAMASCUS ACCORD AND TO CONDEMN "MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA OF EGYPTIAN REGIME AND ITS FABRICATIONS AND LIES CARRIED OUT IN DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ATTACK ACCORD AND DEFEND DEFEATIST SINAI AGREEMENT. FRONT-PAGE TISHRIIN ARTICLE CLAIMED, "SINAI AGREEMENT WAS ORIGIN OF LEBANESE CRISIS."

6. PRESS HAS RECENTLY CARRIED NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS

WITH OFFICERS OF LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS. TODAY, AL BAATH INTERVIEWED TWO OFFICERS WHO ASSERTED VANGUARDS PROVIDED VEHICLE FOR REUNIFICATION OF LEBANESE ARMY. THEY CLAIMED THAT VANGUARDS COMBINE ALL LEBANESE CONFESSIONS, ARE RECEIVING INCREASING SUPPORT FROM LEBANESE POPULACE, AND DAILY ACCEPT INTO THEIR RANKS OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS FROM OLD LEBANESE ARMY. THEY PRAISED SYRIAN ASSISTANCE TO VANGUARDS.

7. WESTERN EMBOFF MET RECENTLY WITH CUBAN EMBOFF AND DISCUSSED RUMORS OF CUBAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, CUBAN EMBOFF DENIED PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISORS IN LEBANON BUT STATED THERE WERE SOME "SPANISH-SPEAKING FIGHTERS, PERHAPS FROM MEXICO," HELPING LEFTISTS. CUBAN SAID LEBANESE SITUATION TOO COMPLEX FOR INJECTION OF CUBAN SOLDIERS AS IN ANGOLA, BUT SURMISED THAT IF ISSUES HAD BEEN LESS COMPLICATED, HAVANA MIGHT WELL HAVE DECIDED TO SEND IN TROOPS. ASKED WHETHER CUBAN "VOLUNTEERS" PRESENT, EMBOFF STATED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVER PERMIT INDIVIDUALS TO FIGHT WITHOUT OFFICIAL APPROVAL; HAVANA DID NOT APPROVE SENDING OF VOLUNTEERS.

8. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL DENOUNCED ISRAELI PROPAGANDA TREATMENT OF LEBANESE REFUGEES WHO CROSSED INTO NORTHERN ISRAEL. EDITORIAL ASSERTED, "WHILE IT IS NECESSARY TO DETER SINAI AGREEMENT REGIME AND EXPOSE ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL NATIONAL DEFEATS SUFFERED BY ARABS, IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO PUT IMMEDIATE END TO PHENOMENON OF DEALING WITH ENEMY IN SOUTH LEBANON AND ELIMINATE ITS DIRECT CAUSES, BY STOPPING FIGHTING AND RESTORING NORMAL LIFE TO CITIZENS OF REGION." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST SAID EGYPT AIMING TO CONTINUE FIGHTING IN LEBANON FOR THREE REASONS: CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DAMASC 05146 041527Z

A) TO CUT SYRIA DOWN TO SIZE AS SADAT HAS PROCLAIMED, B) TO SLAUGHTER PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, AND C) TO PARTITION LEBANON INTO CONFESSIONAL STATES. AL-THAWRAH WRITER CHARGED THAT U.S. WAS USING LEBANESE CRISIS AS MEANS OF APPLYING PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO UNDERMINE ITS HOSTILITY TO SINAI AGREEMENT.

9. COMMENT: SYRIAN PROMOTION OF SUCCESSFUL INITIAL EVACUATION OF WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR SEEMS DIRECTED AT PLO, AS IF TO SAY SARG HAS UPHELD ITS PART OF BARGAIN AND IS NOW AWAITING PALESTINIAN MOVES TO IMPLEMENT DAMASCUS ACCORD. QADDUMI'S RETURN TO DAMASCUS FOR THIRD TIME, FIRST TO HAMMER OUT DRAFT ACCORD, THEN NEGOTIATE FINAL AGREEMENT AND NOW TO PAVE WAY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED-UPON TERMS SEEMS TO REFLECT

CONTINUING SUSPICION BY ARAFAT OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS AND
RELUCTANCE TO INVOLVE HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN TALKS WITH
SARG LEADERSHIP. SYRIA APPEARS DETERMINED TO
LEGITIMIZE THROUGH ITS MEDIA LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS'
POTENTIAL ROLE AS NON-CONFESSIONAL SECURITY FORCE.
EDITORIAL DECRYING ISRAEL'S OPEN BORDERS POLICY VIS-
A-VIS SOUTH LEBANON APPEARS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE JUSTI-
FICATION FOR RENEWED SYRO-LEBANESE MILITARY EFFORTS TO
PACIFY SOUTH LEBANON.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, CHRISTIANS, PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC05146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-0546
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760889/aaaaczvy.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUG. 4 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTS RETURN OF PLO DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS; CRITICISM OF SINAI ACCORD CONTINUES
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006